National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

Inside Wallops

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NASA Launches Next Generation Space Transportation Effort

NASA has announced the first round of contract awards in an agency initiative to find a more affordable and reliable highway into space. The Space Launch Initiative (SLI) is a research and development effort designed to substantially improve safety and reduce the high cost of space travel.

The studies initiated with these awards are not intended to provide a specific vehicle design. This first step marks the beginning of a process that will lead to the development of a common set of alternative technologies that NASA will make available to all U.S. companies. These cutting-edge developments will be used for future government and commercial launch systems and space transportation operations.

Artist's Concept

The SLI investment is expected to pay off with full-scale spacecraft development options by mid-decade.

"A second-generation reusable launch vehicle will open up the space frontier and significantly improve life on Earth," said Art Stephenson, director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, which is leading the program.

"The Space Launch Initiative is a comprehensive R&D effort that provides technology developments that dramatically increase the safety, reliability and affordability of space transportation systems," Stephenson added. "Through this new initiative, NASA's mission requirements will be met more efficiently, the U.S. launch industry can better compete in the international launch market, and our nation's leadership in space will continue to grow in the new century."

NASA first solicited proposals last fall and on May 17 awarded contracts valued at $767 million to 22 contractors, including large and small companies, to allow maximum competition.

The money will be used to develop concepts and the technologies needed to pioneer this extraordinary effort, which is expected to make the vehicle at least 10 times safer and crew survivability 100 times greater, all at one-tenth the cost of today's space launch systems. These leap-ahead technologies include crew survival systems, advanced tanks and airframe structures, long-life rocket engines and thermal protection systems.

"We've got a clean sheet of paper and a wide open competition," added Stephenson. " The goal is to develop technologies to enable a mid-decade decision regarding the full-scale development of a versatile space transportation system that can be used for both government and commercial services."

Nearly 300 experts throughout NASA, with technical support from the Air Force Research Laboratory, evaluated numerous proposals leading to this initial down-select and awards for this first round of SLI contracts. The awards are for a 10-month base period with options for one or more additional years.

The options enable NASA to measure performance on a yearly basis to make sure the program's ambitious goals are met. This approach also allows for continued competition in key technology areas and for NASA to take advantage of new emerging technologies.

The planned budget for the Space Launch Initiative totals $4.8 billion through fiscal year 2006. Additional solicitations in the fall of 2001 and 2002 will commit significant additional funds to the effort.

All NASA's field centers and the Air Force Research Laboratory are actively participating in the Space Launch Initiative and are vital to its success. The Marshall Space Flight Center is NASA's lead center for SLI. The Air Force Research Laboratory includes research and development facilities at nine U.S. Air Force bases nationwide.

Additional information on NASA's Space Launch Initiative, including a list of the selected contractors, is available on the Internet at:
http://www.slinews.com
and
http://www.spacetransportation.com

Wallops Shorts……..

Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA single stage Viper Dart sounding rocket was successfully launched from Wallops Island on May 16. This was a test round for the evaluation and development of the Viper 3A/10D Dart rocket and its support systems as a vehicle for research on the mesosphere and lower thermosphere. Radars did not track the rocket and failed to obtain trajectory data. Twenty seconds of TM data were recorded during motor burn and after payload/Dart separation.

On the road

Chuck Brodell, NASA Shuttle Small Payloads Projects Office, spoke to students at the Wilksboro Middle School and did a program in a Senior Center in Hanover, PA on May 16.

Randy Carrier, Litton/PRC, participated in the Fruitland Intermediate School Career Day held May 16.

Phil Eberspeaker, NASA Policy and Business Relations Office, assisted Worcester Prep students in a mechanical design competition held May 17.

Diane Weller, Occu-Health, Inc.; **Steve Kremer**, NASA Ground Network Project; and **Al Beebe**, SESI, participated in a Reading Expo held at Snow Hill Elementary School, May 19.

Undergraduate Student-Research Program

In late May, NASA will welcome the first cadre of students participating in the new Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP).

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An essential objective of this program is to address the need to increase the nation's undergraduate and graduate science, engineering, mathematics and technology skill base. In particular, USRP will provide undergraduates with challenging research experiences designed to pique student academic interest in these fields and disciplines. The program also is intended to encourage continued student career interest aligned with NASA's research and development mission.

The Virginia Space Grant Consortium, Hampton, VA, provides national coordination of the USRP program for NASA's Office of Human Resources and Education. Further information is available at: http://education.nasa.gov/usrp

Correction

The ISO 9001:2000 Introduction, Awareness training course originally scheduled for WFF civil service employees is open to contract and civil service employees.

The course will be held June 12 in Building F-3 Conference Room from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is no cost for the course. Call Regena Haugh, x1530, with any questions.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Gladys Evans who died May 10 in Pennsylvania. Evans retired from NASA Wallops Resources Management Office.

NASA Property Disposal Management System

Fixed Price Sale

Inspection:
May 22 — 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Sale Date:
May 22 — 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location:
Building F-3
NASA Wallops Flight Facility

Items to be sold:
Approx. 27 lots consisting of:
Pentium & Power Mac Systems (CPU/ Monitor/Kybd/Mouse), Laptops, Powerbooks, Color Monitors, and Laser Printer

For a complete listing visit: http:// sales.gsfc.nasa.gov/

Auction

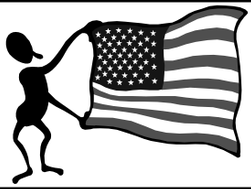
Inspection:
May 22 — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
May 23 — 8 to 8:45 a.m.

Auction:
May 23 — 9 a.m.

Location:
Building F-3
NASA Wallops Flight Facility

Items to be Sold:
Approximately 41 lots consisting of:
ADP Equipment; Testing & Electronic Equipment; Generators; Liquid Nitrogen Tanks; Air Cooled Condensor; Trailer; Bulldozer/Earth Moving; Fire Truck; Other Misc. Items

For a complete listing visit: http:// sales.gsfc.nasa.gov/



Memorial Day will be celebrated May 28

Working Together OHR and YOU

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) will host two, *Working Together OHR AND YOU* events at Wallops. OHR representatives will be on hand Tuesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Building E-104, to provide insight about different HR services and resources available to employees. Both days will include two different HR presentations and several information stations with OHR representatives available to answer questions on selected topics. See below for further details.

Presentations
Tuesday, May 22
10:30 a.m. Family Friendly Leave
1 p.m. Resume Management

Information Stations
Recruitment/Staffing
Benefits/Retirement
Leave and Family Work Life Programs
Resume Management
Navigating the HR Web
General HR Information

Presentations
Thursday, May 24

10:30 a.m. NASA Leadership Model
1 p.m. Individual Development Planning

Information Stations
HR Communications
Recruitment/Staffing
Individual Development Planning
Leadership and Management Development
General HR Information

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a day to remember the U.S. men and women who lost their lives serving their country.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it was established in 1868 to commemorate the dead from the Civil War. Over the years it came to serve as a day to remember all U.S. men and women killed or mission in action in all wars.

In 1971, it was declared a national holiday to be held on the last Monday in May.

Upcoming Training

Systems Engineering

Date: July 9 - 13
Place: Holiday Inn Executive Center
Virginia Beach, VA

This is a residential program. Meals, lodging, tuition, tips and gratuities will be funded by NASA Headquarters.

GSFC will be responsible for WFF travel funds to and from the training site.

Course Objective:
To teach participants how to avoid practices that lead to significant cost and schedule overruns through proper management of the technical aspect of the project cycle, stressing the importance of the project study period.

The program covers the process for transforming requirements into system architecture through the development and tradeoff of concepts, effectiveness analysis, and specification development.

Topics Include:
System engineering - team responsibility.
System development life cycle.
System engineering process.
System requirements development.
System architecture development.
Risk and opportunity management.
Integration and verification.
System documentation and communication.
System engineering metrics.
Quality and system engineering.
Attributes of a qualified system engineer.
Common system engineering pitfalls.

To register, complete an APPL nomination form (found at http://appl.nasa.gov/managers/schoolhouse/nomform.pdf), including your supervisor's signature and forward to your Center's Training Office for processing.

The GSFC point of contact is Mark Goldman, x66-8852. Visit the APPL website, http://appl.nasa.gov, for more information on this and other programs.

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Editor Betty Flowers
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http://www.wff.nasa.gov